



**COMMUNITY BOARD #14
MONTHLY VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING
APRIL 12, 2022**

PRESENT

COMMUNITY
BOARD #

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Mark Anaya, Lailah Boyd, Louis Caucig, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Eric Diaz, Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston, Jack Epter, Eugenia Gibson, Yitzchok Goldstone, Avionne Gumbs-Cummings, Felicia Johnson, Caren Lee, John McCambridge, Sonia Moise, Helen Montero, Al Moore, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Dr. Harold Paez, Vernell Robinson, David Rood-Ojalvo, David Shelborne, Karen Sloan-Payne, Chris Tedesco, Jose Velez, Lisa Williams

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
City of New York
Borough of Queens

ABSENT

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

Gabrielle Bennett, Yaakov Berger, Giselle Carter, Natasha Carter, Temina Feldman, Menashe Friedman, Jaden Gaab, Randy Hall, D. Brian Heffernan, Brian Kelly, Maggie Larkin, Betty Leon, Luquan Lloyd, Rosalyn Mason Evelyn Miller-Stuber, Isa Mitchell, Wanda Warden, Eugene Pasternak

JONATHAN GASKA
District Manager

GUESTS

Assemblymember Khaleel Anderson, Captain Sony Beauvoir – Executive Officer 100th Police Precinct, Deputy Inspector Eric Robinson- 101st Police Precinct. Sandee Doremus- Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Joseph Edwards – Rep. Congressman Gregory Meeks

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Dolores Orr- Chair was running late, since there was no quorum District Manager started the meeting at 7:15pm.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter dated March 9, 2022 sent to Governor Hochul, State Senators Addabbo and Sanders, Assemblymembers Pheffer-Amato and Anderson and Mayor Adams. Letter was the Board's resolution in opposition of NY State Assembly Bill 4854, NY Senate Bill 4547, NY State Senate Bill 7574 and Governor's budget proposing Accessory Dwelling Unit Housing to be required to be allowed on one family zoned properties statewide, amnesty for existing illegal conversions in New York City.

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FACEBOOK cb14rockaway

Letter dated April 5, 2022 to homeowner stating the flood zone location of the home for flood insurance purposes.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

Jonathan Gaska, District Manager reported that emails was sent out announcing the board's Economic Development Committee meeting tomorrow at 7pm.

As a reminder to all mosquito season has started and the office will be taking locations of dump outs in vacant lots and other open areas to be forwarded to sanitation for cleaning or you can call 311 just remember to write down the complaint number for follow up. Also you can call 311, please call the office if you have/notice locations of potholes that need to be filled.

All welcomed the following new board members who were in attendance:

Caren Lee

Vernell Robinson

David Shelborne

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT

ASSEMBLY MEMBER KHALEEL ANDERSON

Assembly Member Anderson of the 31st District welcomed and congratulated all the new board members and announced the passage of the state budget that Assembly Members are so excited about which provide funds for gun violence and addressing issues of the environment and transportation. Funds for health care and an increase in Medicaid reimbursement for the 1st time in 10 years.

STATE SENATOR JOSEPH ADDABBO JR.

Sandee Deremus reported that to continue along with Assembly Member Anderson announcing that the passed state budget also includes an increase in funds for education and changes to Bail Reform at the request of the people concerns. Office mobile hours start May 19, 2022 at the Peninsula Library 5:30pm to 7:00pm.

7:40pm Chair Dolores Orr attended meeting.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

I attended, along with several board members, Dept of City Planning's training on the URULP process over two nights for a total of 6 hours. All board members were provided with the email and link to this training. Being aware of land use and zoning is critical in this time of so much development on the Rockaway Peninsula. In the discussion regarding the EIS, I questioned, given climate change and sea level rise does City Planning require review of sufficient coastal evacuation routes in the EIS. Evacuation routes is not required in the EIS or any other documents in the URULP process. Clearly this is an area in which we must proposal change. It will be referred to the land use committee for recommendation to the full board.

Quorum was reached at 7:45pm

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The Chair opened the floor for public speaking. 9 people signed up to speak. They all were recognized and heard. Public speaking was closed.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Far Rockaway Arverne Nonprofit Coalition (FRANC)

Manuel Silva, Executive Director of the Far Rockaway Arverne Nonprofit Coalition (FRANC) stated FRANC was formed in 2010 to provide services to strengthen non-profit organizations on the Peninsula. Currently FRANC consists of 21 organizations. The website is www.francnyc.org. FRANC will be overseeing the distribution of funds from the Edgemere Community Development Fund.

The developers of Edgemere Commons committed \$2 Million for the community as a whole for community based organizations working to better the community and provide support to our residents... FRANC was chosen develop a process to distribute the money. Money will be distributed twice a year over 10 years. There is an application process and groups can apply for the grants of \$2,500 to \$5,000. Applications are available on line at www.franknyc.org/community. Applications period is March 28, 2022 – April 22, 2022.

Edgemere Commons will consist of 2000 units of affordable mixed income housing, with a supermarket, community center, medical and commercial space on the old Peninsula Hospital site.

NYS Affordable Multifamily Energy Efficiency Program

Joseph Solipia, Outreach Lead at Wellness Solutions provides community awareness of the NYS Affordable Multifamily Energy Efficiency Program which focuses on the rationale behind why energy efficiency and clean energy is important. Also bring awareness to some pathways for inventive applications that property owners or energy efficiency contractors and tenants themselves can get discounts on down payments for these projects through utility and statewide incentives.

The incentives are for approved energy-saving equipment and technology upgrades in multifamily buildings with 5 or more residential units in NYC and Long Island regions in which 25% or more of units are considered affordable housing.

The incentives are applied through Wilden Energy Solutions, which is the

implementation Contractor for Downstate AMEEP regions on behalf of Con Edison and National Grid. More detailed information is available online at nationalgridlml@wilden.com

COMMITTEE REPORT

Transportation Committee, Chris Tedesco, Chair

Chris Tedesco, Chair of the committee reported that a virtual meeting was held on March 22, 2022. The agenda items for discussion were the following:

1. Presentation by **LinkNYC** and CityBridge regarding the installation of kiosks in CB14's district. Presenters were Stacy Gardener from LinkNYC, and Nick, Nicole, and Margaux from CityBridge.

The kiosks provide free public Wi-Fi, phone calls, device charging, and a tablet for access to city services, maps, and directions. CB14 is slated to get as many as 9 kiosks by the end of 2022. The proposed locations can be found on map LINK. The locations are all east of Beach 92nd street, with several locations in Edgemere and Far Rockaway. LinkNYC and CityBridge were willing to consider other locations and the committee provided several locations that should be considered including the ferry dock, Beach 116th street, Beach 129th street, and the 4 concession areas on the boardwalk.

2. Andrew Arcese, representing **DOT** gave an update on various projects and concerns throughout District CB14.

- **Speed humps on Shore Front Parkway** – Several walkthroughs have taken place with DOT, elected officials, and civic leaders. DOT will make changes to prevent cars from swerving into the bike lane to avoid the humps. They have no plans to reduce the amount of speed humps currently installed, citing data from past studies. DOT will paint zebra stripes at the 101st and 81st street boardwalk vehicle access ramps, to help keep it clear for emergency vehicles and areas behind the 3 concessions. DOT will also be installing enhanced pedestrian crossings on Shore Front at 96th, and 102nd streets this summer with future enhanced crossings being considered for B77th, B81st, and B90th streets.

For cars swerving into the bike lane to avoid the speed humps, DOT will add flexible bollards in the near term while still considering the bump placement (whether to remove, relocate, or extend into the bike lane) longer term.

- **Seagirt Blvd Project** - a revised plan will be ready in late April or May, with several changes that reflect community input from the initial presentation.

Edgemere Ave from Beach 32-38 streets. This redesign project was presented to the committee over a year ago. It is part of the Arverne East project (private

application) and not within DOT.

BCD/Seagirt/B35 Street - The goal is to reconstruct the intersection to resemble what is shown in the 2019 Eastern Rockaway Access to Opportunity Study. This would be done via a capital project and the timeframe is unclear at this time.

Parking signage at Dog Park on BCD/Rockaway Freeway will be in place by the end of April.

Left turn signal west bound lane on RBB & B62nd Street - DOT stated they have studied the intersection and are aware of the strong desire of the community and the need to make south bound left turns onto B62nd Street safer. They are reviewing options including staggered left turn arrows for east bound and west bound traffic on RBB as well as potentially reconstructing the intersection to allow simultaneous left turns by both east bound and west bound traffic. Right now there is not enough space in the intersection for that to occur.

New direction/new goals of the Adams administration - the goal is to continue investments in Vision Zero, with a renewed focus on intersection safety, among other priorities. The Mayor and our Commissioner announced an initiative to install more raised crosswalks, which is essentially a speed hump at the intersection which provides better visibility for pedestrians while also forcing drivers to slow down. Note that this is going to be a slow and steady process as there are considerations to existing utilities, drainage, etc.

Mac Lawrence and Alex Hunter representing CM Selvena Brooks-Powers office stated that the council members' transportation related goals include equitable access to DOT and MTA improvements, quality of life issues in underserved neighborhoods, and MTA accessibility studies. She is also working on including the Far Rockaway LIRR station in the new "City Ticket" program, which offers weekend and off-peak discounts to LIRR trips in NYC.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourned meeting.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning